



Town of Loxahatchee Groves Newsletter

Greetings from Mayor Dave Browning



Mayor Dave Browning

Greetings from your Mayor,

It's hard to believe summer is almost gone and the kids will be returning to school. It's been a hot one, but thankfully, we've had plenty of rain. Hopefully, we can make it through the rest of the season without a hurricane.

As a result of our recent search for a new town manager, your town council has selected Frank Spence to fill this position. He has plenty of experience, and I believe, will help guide our town successfully through our future challenges.

As you should know, we are currently forming our Land Use Regulations. Please get involved in this process if you haven't to date. I wish we could get by without rules & regulations, but there always seem to be a few people whose conduct is very detrimental to their neighbors and therefore, to our community as a whole. We want to keep these codes as simple as possible while protecting the lifestyle we love and enjoy.

I also want to thank your various neighbors who are donating their time and effort to the Finance Advisory & Audit Committee, ERM Stakeholders Group, & CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Team). Sure do appreciate your help in serving our town.

I want to close by saying "thank you!" to the team at New Community Strategies. They've done a great job in helping us get to where we are today.

Thanks to Irv, Matthew, & Michelle!

Your neighbor,

Dave

Town Council Members



Vice Mayor
Dennis Lipp



Councilman
Dr. Bill Louda



Councilman
Ron Jarriel



Councilman
Ryan Liang

Town Council Selects New Management Firm



New Town Manager
Frank Spence

Since June 2007, New Community Strategies has been the Town's contracted Management Firm. Dr. Irv Rosenbaum, Matthew Lippman, Michele Kantor and the rest of their team have been providing all of the management services for the Town. New Community Strategies last day of their contract will be on September 30, 2009.

On July 21, 2009, the Town Council interviewed three potential firms and selected Frank Spence and his team as the new management firm. Frank Spence's contract starts on October 1, 2009.

Frank Spence and his team bring over 40 years of municipal management experience to the Town. The Town welcomes Frank Spence and his new team and look forward to a successful future for the residents and landowners of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves

Abatement of Code Enforcement Against Businesses

Resolution 2009-010 was passed by the Town Council on May 19, 2009. The Resolution provides for the abatement of the enforcement of violations of provisions of Article 4 of the Town's ULDC with respect to uses that do not comply with the matrix or supplementary use standards. This was done in anticipation of the Town starting the process of writing the new Land Development Regulations. While writing the new regulations, the Town Council will decide what type of businesses will be allowed or not allowed by the new code. It is anticipated that the new Land Development Regulations will be adopted by the end of 2009.

Town's Comprehensive Plan

The Town Council adopted the Comprehensive Plan at its February 17, 2009 Town Council Meeting. The Florida Department of Community Affairs completed its review and on April 15, 2009, and found the Town's Comprehensive Plan in compliance. The Notice of Intent was published in the Palm Beach Post on April 15, 2009. During the 20 day period of the Notice of Intent, any of the affected parties can file petition to intervene. Should no parties file a petition to intervene, on the 20th day (by May 6, 2009), the Comprehensive Plan would have been official. Should an affected party file a petition to intervene, the D.C.A. would defend the Comprehensive Plan vs. the affected party in the Department of Administrative Hearing Process. On May 6, 2009, Callery-Judge Groves, L.P. and Seminole Improvement District filed a Petition for Formal Administrative Hearing challenging the D.C.A.'s finding the Town's Comprehensive Plan in compliance. As of August 1, 2009, the Town is still working with the representatives of Callery-Judge Groves on the petition that was filed.

Land Development Regulations & Environmental Regulations



The Town, upon incorporation, inherited and then adopted Palm Beach Counties Code of Ordinances and the Unified Land Development Code. These ordinances and codes are primarily for urban communities. As we all know Loxahatchee Groves is not an urban community and it's safe to say "most of us like it that way". You might ask why did we do that and not develop our own? Good question. Before we develop our own we needed to complete the Comprehensive Plan, so that, when we develop our Land Development Regulations and Code of Ordinances they conform to our Comprehensive Plan.

The Town Council has started the process of amending and adopting its own Land Development Regulations. The Town has contracted with The Mellgren Planning Group to write the new code and conduct the Public Workshops. The Public Workshops are held at the Palms West Presbyterian Church on Okeechobee Blvd. The public has participated in two workshops so far and it has been very successful. The next workshop is scheduled for:

Saturday, September 12 at 10:00 a.m.

The Town Council has directed Town Staff and The Mellgren Planning Group to send out a questionnaire to all of the residents and landowners. This questionnaire would include any of the questions that were asked at the last two Public Workshops and would also include additional questions that are derived from the Town Council and the public. It is very important to give EVERYONE the chance to participate and be included in this process. The questions that will be asked on this questionnaire will be discussed at the September 12 workshop. Please attend so your voice can be heard.

You can also provide the Town Council with your feedback and comments through the Town's website (loxahatcheegroves.org). There is a COMMENTS page that you can submit your comments and they will be posted during the process of developing the Town's new Land Development Code.

Environmental Regulations Update: The Town Staff, Calvin-Giordano & Associates and the ERM Stakeholder group will be meeting 2 more times to finalize the draft of the Town's new Environmental Regulations. Visit the Town's website for more information.

WASTE PRO Solid Waste Services

The Solid Waste Collection service from 2004-2008 including UNLIMITED VEGETATION pickup. The Solid Waste Authority changed from unlimited vegetative pick-up to a limited pick up of 6 cubic yards. In October 2008, the 5 year contract with ONYX expired. When the Town Council negotiated the new contract with Waste Pro, they chose not to continue the unlimited vegetative pick up service due to the dramatic increase in cost to maintain that service. (all the companies bidding on the contract included very costly unlimited vegetation pick-up service). With this in mind, what are my options?

- (1) Should you need large vegetative pick-up (in excess of the 6 cubic yards) only certain times during the year, you can contact Waste Pro to arrange for those special pickups and they will provide you with the cost of this additional service.
- (2) Be sure your tree stumps & limbs are cut 1-2' in length. Pile all the vegetation neatly in a pile SEPARATE from any bulk items
- (3) The "lay of the land" is very challenging to a lot of property owners. Neighbors need to work together to establish a "common area" where all of the trash, vegetation and bulk items will be placed for pick-up. It's not always easy, however cooperation between the adjacent property owners is the only way it is going to work.
- (4) If you qualify, obtain a Burn Permit from the Division of Forestry & PBC Fire Department. This would allow you to burn your excess vegetation.

WASTE PRO : Customer Service Phone #: 561-688-8912 (411 Talpines Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33413)

Residential Waste Pick-up: Wednesdays & Saturdays

Residential Vegetative Waste Pick-up: Wednesdays (**6 cubic yards per pick up**)

Residential Recycling Pick-up: Saturdays

Residential Bulk Items: Wednesdays & Saturdays

(Furniture, appliances, pianos, swing sets, water heaters, air conditioners, & other like household items. There is no weight limitation on any single bulk item.)

Residential Construction and Demolition: Wednesdays and Saturdays (up to 2 cubic yards from minor home improvement)

SOLID WASTE SERVICES MONITORING: The Town of Loxahatchee Groves has contracted with Frank Schiola to monitor the Solid Waste services provided by Waste Pro. Frank handles all service complaints and resolving any hauling issues with Waste Pro. You can contact Frank by email at garbagegobbler@aol.com or call the Town Office at 561-793-2418.

TIRE AMNESTY DAY: On, Saturday, September 19, 2009 Waste Pro will be coordinating with Frank Schiola for residents and landowners to dispose of tires in bulk. You can drop off the tires at the Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District between 9am and 3pm. You must bring a driver's license to show that you live in Loxahatchee Groves. This is the amount of tires that will be accepted per person: 4 CAR TIRES per person (or) 2 TRUCK TIRES per person (or) 1 TRACTOR TIRE per person. Call the Town Office for more information.



Town Meeting Schedule



The Town Council meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month. The meetings start at 7:00 pm & are held at the LGWCD.

Stay involved and attend these meetings. If you are unable to attend, you can access the Council meeting minutes and recordings on the Town website at www.loxahatcheegroves.org or call the office at 561-793-2418 to request a copy.

2009 Town Council Meeting Schedule: *(Times & dates subject to change. All legal notices for meetings are posted on the Town's website.):*

Aug:	8/4 & 8/18	Nov:	11/3 & 11/17
Sept:	9/1 & 9/15	Dec:	12/1 & 12/15
Oct:	10/6 & 10/20		

Intergovernmental Coordination Meetings



The Town and the Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District meet monthly to work out the delivery of combined municipal services to the community in an efficient and cost-effective manner. The two entities started meeting in December, 2008. Please check the Town's website for the next meeting dates. For a copy of the minutes and recordings of these meetings, you can visit the meeting page on the Town's website or request a hard copy from Lynnette Ballard at the LGWCD.

Town Committees

The Town Council created the **Finance Advisory and Audit Committee** through Resolution 2009-008 & 2009-014. The Committee has been meeting since June 12 & the meeting dates are posted on the Town's website. The duties of the Committee include:

- (1) To conduct review and analyses of projects assigned by the Town Council, and make recommendations to the Town Council;
- (2) To review and evaluate financial activities of the Town and make recommendations to the Town council; and
- (3) To review Town policies and procedures affecting financial functions, and make recommendations to the Town Council as deemed appropriate.
- (4) Serve as the Town's official Audit Committee as outlined in the State of Florida Statutes.

Contract Government

The Town of Loxahatchee Groves has a **“Contract form of Government.”** So, what does that mean? Contract Town is a term that describes a Town which contracts with another government, not for profit organization, or a private company to deliver most local governmental services. A traditional full service Town, where services are delivered directly by Town employees, is the opposite of a contract Town. Municipalities (cities, towns and villages) may contract for services in several ways. They enter into contracts to provide services common to most local governments such as road maintenance and maintenance of facilities. They grant franchises to private companies to provide public services such as electricity or cable television. Municipalities contract with professionals, as individuals or firms, for legal counsel, planning, and engineering services. A contract Town goes beyond the ordinary to contract even for basic services such as police, fire, parks, and management.



It is rare to find a municipality that does not contract for some service. Even formerly traditional Towns have moved beyond commonly contracted services and have engaged private firms to act as finance directors, Town clerks, and even Town managers. As this trend continues, we will see a combination of full time Town employees delivering some municipal services while other services are contracted. *Some examples of Contract Government for the Town of Loxahatchee Groves include: Town Manager & Town Clerk (financials services as well), Town Attorney Legal Services, Audit Services, Solid Waste Services, Police Services (P.B.S.O.), Strategic Visioning, Comprehensive Planning, Code Enforcement Services, and Planning, Zoning & Building Services (Palm Beach County)*

Why does Contract Government work? First, It gives the residents and landowners control, not the employees of the municipality. Second, efficiency is much greater because you are multi-tasking with less employees. A contract for a municipal service is provided by a team of individuals that represent the company providing the service. Next, using contracted services in place of hiring an employee can save almost 45% by eliminating the additional expense of fringe benefits (health insurance, retirement, pension, workmen's comp, etc.). These benefits are carried by the company that is contracted for the municipal service. Last, there is a realized benefit from competition for each of the jobs and services that are being contracted for. In a Town our size, with our unique needs and desire to have “control”, the Contract form of Government works well and has been very successful.

Town of Loxahatchee Groves



14579 Southern Blvd
Suite 2
Loxahatchee Groves, FL 33470

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PERMIT NO 692

Important Phone Numbers

Town Management Office:

14579 Southern Blvd, Suite 2
Loxahatchee Groves, FL 33470
Phone: 561-793-2418
Fax: 561-793-2420
Emergencies: 954-806-1763
clerk@loxahatcheegroves.org
www.loxahatcheegroves.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

All Emergencies:

(Police, Fire, & Rescue): 911

Poison Control Center:

800-282-3171

Non-Emergency Fire:

561-616-7000

Non-Emergency Sheriff:

561-688-3000

L.G. Water Control District:

561-793-0884

Waste Pro (Solid Waste):

561-688-8912

American Red Cross:

561-833-7711

Emergency Management:

561-712-6400

Florida Power & Light:

561-697-8000

AT&T (telephone):

561-780-2355

